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Managing Hybridizing Populations: Threats or Opportunities for Conservation?

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Ettore Randi

Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University, 9220 Aalborg, Denmark

Prof. Dr. Marco Musiani

Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences (BiGeA), University of Bologna, Via Zamboni, 33-40126 Bologna, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Natural hybridization is a driver of evolution while anthropogenic hybridization is considered a risk factor for biodiversity conservation. However, new research findings challenge these assumptions. Conservation biology needs innovative guidelines for the protection of hybridizing endangered species and for upholding the evolutionary dynamics of admixing populations.

In this Symposium, we will provide reports on ongoing research projects and updated conservation strategies for animal populations that are evolving due to natural or anthropogenic hybridization and gene introgression. Aims of this Symposium is to promote a positive conservation view, which accounts for biodiversity inclusively: and also inclusive of hybridization, e.g., biodiversity of hybridizing populations. Therefore, the formulation of conservation solutions requires (1) scientific research and in-depth analysis of case studies involving hybridization, (2) debating of any findings by academics and all conservation stakeholders, and (3) the development of monitoring and management procedures applicable in the real world of conservation, a world that is perhaps inclusive towards hybrids.



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Prof. Dr. Jukka Finne

Research Programme in
Molecular and Integrative
Biosciences, Faculty of Biological
and Environmental Sciences,
University of Helsinki, P.O. Box
56, FI-00014 Helsinki, Finland

Prof. Dr. Andrés Moya

Integrative Systems Biology
Institute, University of Valencia
and CSIC, 46980 Valencia, Spain

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Biology Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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